



General 'AT HOME' Talking Points

Updated: March 28, 2023

Core Message: California's Counties have created the 'AT HOME' Plan to address homelessness equitably and effectively. AT HOME's six pillars are:

- **A**ccountability: Clear responsibilities aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government
- **T**ransparency: Integrate and expand data to improve program effectiveness
- **H**ousing: Increase and maintain housing units across the spectrum
- **O**utreach: Develop sustainable outreach systems and increase workforce
- **M**itigation: Strengthen safety net programs
- **E**conomic Opportunity: Create employment and education pathways, as well as supports for basic needs

Problem: The state lacks a comprehensive, holistic plan to address homelessness.

Solution: The AT HOME Plan changes that by outlining clear responsibilities aligned with strong accountability and sustainable funding for all levels of government.

Description: The six-pillar AT HOME plan includes broad goals and specific policy proposals to improve the way California collectively responds to those who are unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused.

Collaboration: Counties are determined to work with our federal, state and local partners, and in partnership with the Governor and the Legislature, to implement this comprehensive plan to help those who are unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused in our communities.

Pillar Specific Talking Points

- Accountability:** It all begins with Accountability, which is critical to achieving successful outcomes and why the bulk of the AT HOME blueprint rests within this first pillar.
 - It's very simple. We need a statewide system so everyone is on the same page and everyone knows what they are supposed to do - clear responsibilities aligned to authority, resources, and flexibility for all levels of government
 - Without institutionalizing accountability and prioritizing coordination, we will not make meaningful progress in addressing homeless.
 - Funding: We also need sustained funding that is aligned with clear responsibilities. Funding also needs to be flexible, equitable and paired with

technical assistance to meet the needs of our unique urban, rural and suburban communities.

- **Transparency:** We need more robust systems to manage available data and improve accountability and transparency so we can track service and programs while prioritizing data-driven decision making.
- **Housing:** The lack of affordable housing and shelter is a major contributor to homelessness.
 - There is a significant housing shortage across the full housing continuum in California – not just for those unhoused, but also for those who are on the brink of losing access to housing.
 - The AT HOME plan identifies ways to begin to streamline this process and remove barriers to the development of infrastructure.
- **Outreach:** We know that connecting one-on-one is the most effective way of helping the unhoused. And it allows us to ensure that they receive shelter and services that they desperately need.
 - However, there is a severe shortage of health and human services workers.
 - The AT HOME plan identifies ways to recruit, train and retain more people, including those with lived experience, to help with outreach and rapid response efforts.
- **Mitigation:** Counties are on the front lines, running or administering most health and human services programs on behalf of the state.
 - These programs serve as the safety net in California. AT HOME identifies ways for us to strengthen programs to prevent individuals from becoming homeless.
- **Economic Opportunity:** To address homelessness over the long-term, there must be a focus on employment, education, and self-sufficiency of those who are formerly homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness, including justice-involved individuals, veterans, older Californians, and former foster youth.

Closing: It won't be quick or easy, but with the state, counties and cities working together to implement AT HOME, California will have a comprehensive roadmap to reducing and mitigating homelessness in California.